Government servants for house building and conveyance due to less number of applications for loans than anticipated. The these loans will be impressed upon various Ministries/Departments.

Stock Market

4419. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that allowing the bankers as participants of depository, is likely to curtail the participation of the Stock Brokers in the Stock market as it is not possible for them to compete with the Bankers;

(b) whether the SEBI proposes to concentrate the business only in a few hands; and

(c) if so, the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The SEBI (Depositories and Participants) Regulations, 1996 allow a broker to be a participant of the Depository subject to fulfilment of the requirements specified under the Regulations. Transactions on Stock Exchanges will continue to be through brokers who are members of the Stock Exchanges.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Foreign Investment

4420. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn any scheme for economic reform process to attract foreign investment in the country in order to boost employment,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have invited any suggestions from the trade and industry in this regard;

(d) if so, the detail thereof; and

(e) the future programme so envisaged by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e). Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is constantly kept under review with the objective of increasing FDI into the country, particularly in the priority sectors which can change from time to time depending on considerations such as promotion of exports, creation of more employment opportunities, backward linkages with the farm sector, etc. The Central Government has recently revamped the Foreign Investment Promotion Board to make the approval process quicker and more transparent. In addition, the Government has set up a Foreign Investment Promotion council (FIPC) comprising of distinguished and well known experts who will catlayse, manage and coordinate investment promotion and marketing efforts. The FIPC, among others, includeds the apex Industry associations as Members. Consultations are held with apex Trade & Industry bodies in this process.

It is relevant that when any investment is made, including foreign investment, it results in generation of employment opportunities. However, data on employment generation on account of foreign investment proposals approved are not centrally maintained.

Role of Nominee Directors

4421. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reviewing the role of nominee directors on the board of major companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). It is not the Government but All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) which appoint nominee directors on the boards of assisted companies. AIFIs themselves are responsible for reviewing the performance of their nominee directors and taking appropriate action wherever necessary.

It may be added that the existing guidelines on nominee directors are under review by AIFIs.

Financial Institutions

4422. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the aggregate cost of equity shares and convertible debentures purchased by UTI, IDBI, IFCI and ICICI except Public Sector Units shares and debentures from financial year 1992-93 to 1995-96 through Direct placement/Bought out Deals/ Development (i.e., other than purchases through the Secondary market) alongwith the present aggregate value at market price of these Securities;

(b) the number of companies out of the above whose shares and convertible debentures have not been listed so far alongwith their aggregate purchase price and the dividend received during the last year; and

(c) the aggregate Cost of shares-Listed and Unlisted-purchased between 1992-93 to 1995-96 at premium on which no dividend has been received during last year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.